

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SCCT-02 IO-14 SAB-01 OMB-01 ACDA-19 DRC-01

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R 031058Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2977

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMB-SSY DAMASCUS 0187

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

AMEMBSSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEL AVIV 3658

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MOPS, IS XF

SUBJECT: HERTZOG ARTICLE ON BOMBING TERRORIST BASES

REF: CAIRO 4748

1. WE NOTE ALL CAIRO PAPERS JUNE 30 REFERRED TO COMMENTARY BY
HAIM HERTZOG IN HAARETZ OF SAME DATE ON PROS AND CONS OF ISRAELI BOMB-
ING OF TERRORIST BASES IN LEBANON(REFTEL) HERTZOG ACTUALLY
STATED THAT POLICY HAD TWO DETERMINANTS: TO PROVIDED IMMEDIATE
RESPONSE TO TERRORIST OPERATIONS AND TO MEET INTERNAL NEEDS.
MAIN THRUST OF HERTZOG ARTICLE, HOWEVER, WAS TO QUESTION OVERALL
STRAGETIC ASPECTS OF USE OF AIR POWE, POINTING OUTTHAT ISRAELI
AIR ATTACKS AGAINST EGYPT IN 1969 AND 1970 AND AGAINST
SYRIA IN OCTOBER 1972 (AFTER MUNICH) AND JANUARY 1973 MAY HAVE BEEN
COUNTERPRODUCTIVE, AS THEY LED TO MISSILE BUILD-UP WITH
SOVIET HELP. WITH RESPTECT TO LEBANON, HERTZOG NOTED THAT AIR ATTACKS
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HAVE TRIGGERD EGYPTIAN OFFER TO HELP, WITH TERRORISTS HAVING

SUCCEEDED IN MAKING THEIR PROBLEM A CENTRAL ISSUE AND BRINGING AREA TO BRINK OF WAR. HERTZOG ARGUED AGAINST OVER RELIANCE ON COSTLY AIR POWER IN FAVOR OF BROADER APPROACH TO PROBLEM INVOLVING POLITICAL AND OTHER MEASURES.

2. COMMENT: HERTZOG ARTICLE ESSENTIALLY REFLECTS QUESTIONING ATTITUDE IN ISRAEL ON MOST EFFECTIVE METHOD FOR COUNTERING TERRORIST ATTACKS, ALTHOUGH HIS CRITICISM ON USE OF AIR POWER IS STRONGEST WE HAVE SEEN TO DATE. (HERTZOG IS KNOWN MODERATE.) WHILE FEW ISRAELIS BELIEVE AIR POWER ALONE WILL HALT TERRORIST ATTACKS AND SOME DO QUESTION ITS EFFICACY, MOST AGREE WITH GOI LINE THAT AIR ATTACKS AT LEAST DISRUPT TERRORISTS AND THEREFORE BUY LITTLE TIME BEFORE NEXT TERRORIST OPERATION, GOVT IN ANY CASE IS UNDER STRONG PRESSURE TO TAKE VIGOROUS MILITARY AND POLITICAL ACTIONS TO COUNTER TERRORISM. CURRENT OBVIOUS DISARRAY IN TERRORIST RANKS IN WAKE OF GOI REACTIONS AND OF EXPECTED FURTHER BLOWS RE NAHARYIA MURDERS WILL BE READ BY MANY ISRAELIS AS PROOF THAT STRONG RETALIATION DOES PAY SOME DIVIDENDS, DESPITE CLEAR POLITICAL COSTS WHICH MUST BE WEIGHED BY GOI.
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